

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 9-11, 21, and 25 are pending and are rejected. Claims 1, 9, and 21 are amended. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 9-11, 21, and 25 are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 10-11, 21, and 25 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0150115 to Onvural et al (hereinafter referred to as Onvural) in view of U.S. Patent 6,895,012 to Amou et al (Amou) and in view of "The Priority Token Bank in a Network of Queues" by Lynn et al (Lynn).

Independent Claim 1

Applicants' Claim 1 is amended to recite, in part:

a token generator for generating a token for each packet, wherein the token generator comprises a priority encoder coupled to the compare logic and configured to generate each token in response to a next free address in the table, and wherein the departure time for each packet is stored in the row of the table addressed by the packet's token

None of the cited references disclose or teach the above limitation of Claim 1.

The Office Action states that Onvural teaches "a token generator for generating a token for each packet, where each token is generated in response to a next free address in the table (see paragraph 38, lines 1-3); Since the index/token can be implemented as a linked list, the index pointer indicates the free addresses in the table by showing which slots contain a packet."

Onvural discloses that the "sorter 14 chooses the packet closest to its timestamped deadline as the next packet for transmission" and that "one method of locating the next packet for transmission would be to search sequentially through the slots in the output packet store starting at the current time until a slot containing a

packet is located.”¹ Onvural teaches that in “one embodiment, an index 22 is used. The index contains information concerning which of the slots contain packets.”² Onvural further teaches that “the index 22 uses or is generated or used by the control hardware 24 and the current time pointer 28 to access a portion of the highest level table corresponding to the current time.”³

Thus, in contrast to the Office Action’s assertion, Onvural does not disclose or suggest a token generator that generates a token in response to a next free address in the table at which to store a packet, as recited in Applicants’ Claim 1, but rather teaches an index 22 indicating which slots of the table already store packets and that is used to select a packet for transmission.

Further, the Office Action notes that Onvural and Amou do not disclose or teach that the token generator is a priority encoder, and states that “Lynn teaches the token generator comprising a priority encoder (see section 3, pg. 1388 paragraph 4 lines 1-4).” In contrast to the Office Action’s assertion, Lynn fails to disclose or suggest a priority encoder “configured to generate each token in response to a next free address in the table,” as recited in Applicants’ Claim 1. Indeed, the only mention of “priority” in Lynn is the “priority token bank” and the “priority function” of each class of packets; there is no mention of a priority encoder configured to generate each token in response to a next free address in the table, nor has the Office Action identified any such language in Lynn.

Therefore, because none of the cited references disclose or suggest “a token generator for generating a token for each packet, wherein the token generator comprises a priority encoder coupled to the compare logic and configured to generate each token in response to a next free address in the table, and wherein the departure time for each packet is stored in the row of the table addressed by the packet’s token,” as recited in Applicants’ Claim 1, Applicants’ Claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Claims 2, 4, 6, and 9-11 depend from Claim 1 and therefore distinguish over the cited references for at least the same reasons as Claim 1.

1 Onvural, paragraph [0037].

2 Onvural, paragraph [0038].

Independent Claim 21

Applicants' Claim 21 is amended to recite, in part:

storing each packet's departure time at a location in a table addressed by the packet's token, wherein the token comprises a next free address in the table and is generated by a priority encoder coupled to the table

As discussed above with respect to Claim 1, none of the cited references disclose or teach "storing each packet's departure time at a location in a table addressed by the packet's token, wherein the token comprises a next free address in the table and is generated by a priority encoder coupled to the table," as recited in Applicants' Claim 21, and therefore Claim 21 is patentable over the cited references.

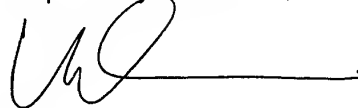
Claim 25 depends from Claim 21 and therefore distinguishes over the cited references for at least the same reasons as Claim 21.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, it is believed that Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 9-11, 21, and 25 are in condition for allowance and, therefore, a Notice of Allowance of 1-2, 4, 6, 9-11, 21, and 25 is respectfully requested. If the Examiner's next action is other than allowance as requested, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (408) 236-6646.

August 15, 2008
Dated

Respectfully submitted,



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